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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/053,238 Confirmation No. : 8692
First Named Inventor : Kazuhiko HONDA
Filed : October 29, 2001
TC/A.U. : 2861
Examiner : Hai Chi Pham

Docket No. : 101749.56391US
Customer No. : 23911

Title : Method of Printing Label on Optical Disk, Optical Disk Unit, and Optical Disk

REPLY

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In complete response to the Office Action dated November 13, 2006, reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 14-16, 20-22, 26-28 and 30-56 are pending, wherein claims 21, 22, 26-28 and 38-55 are withdrawn.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 14-16 and 20 are allowed, and claims 34-37 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,489,265 to Hotta et al. ("Hotta") and U.S. Patent No. 6,576,318 to Lee et al. ("Lee"). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combination of Hotta and Lee does not render Applicants' claims 30-33 obvious because Lee is not prior art with respect to the present application. Lee was filed on June 5, 2001. The present application was filed on October 29, 2001 and claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-330359, filed October 30, 2000. Applicants filed a certified copy of this priority application on June 13, 2002. In order to perfect Applicants' claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), submitted herewith is an English translation of this Japanese priority application as well as a statement that the translation is accurate.

Because Applicants have removed Lee as prior art against the present application by perfecting their priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and because the rejection of claims 30-33 rely upon a combination of Hotta and Lee, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

All outstanding objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in immediate condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Serial No. 10/053,238
Amendment Dated: February 8, 2007
Reply to Office Action Mailed: November 13, 2006
Attorney Docket No. 101749.56391US

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #101749.56391US).

Respectfully submitted,

February 8, 2007


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